

88-035

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JAN 10 1989

August 1, 1988

Donald Normandeau  
Executive Director  
Department of Fish and Game  
34 Bridge Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Director Normandeau:

Recently, one of the members of your staff, Richard Tichko, inquired on your behalf whether the executive director was empowered to formally name a Department of Fish and Game boat access and launch facility. We have concluded that the executive director is so authorized.

As you are aware, RSA 212:1 states in pertinent part that

[t]he state may acquire title to or control of lands....  
for fishing or hunting or administrative  
purposes, by purchase, lease or gift.

Although I have found nothing in the statutes expressly dealing with the subject of assigning names to boat access and launch facilities owned by the Department of Fish and Game, broad authority to control such land is delegated to the executive director by the legislature in RSA 212:7 and in our opinion governs the situation. Specifically, RSA 212:7 reads as follows:

The title to any land acquired by purchase, gift, or lease, shall be approved by the attorney general and shall be taken by the [executive] director in the name of the state. The deed to any such land or property shall be deposited with the secretary of state. The entire control of such land shall be under the direction of the [executive] director.



Donald Normandeau  
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While the uses to which the department may put such land is confined by the provisions of RSA 212:1 and RSA 212:10, the executive director may properly name a new boat access and launch facility by virtue of the broad control delegated to him over such land in RSA 212:7. Moreover, as I am unaware of any other statute that expressly deals with the naming of boat access and launch facilities, RSA 212:7 leaves you with broad discretion to select the name for such a facility.

If you should have any questions regarding the above or wish to discuss this matter further, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robert P. Cheney, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert P. Cheney, Jr.  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental Protection Bureau

RPC/jlc  
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